

5 ACQUISITION OF EXHIBITS FOR REFURBISHED McMANUS GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS (AN269-2007)

The refurbished McManus Galleries and Museum will re-house existing exhibits in a collection of new, themed galleries, including one entitled "Landscapes and Lives" which will relate the origins and history of Dundee and its environment. To complement existing exhibits and further illustrate the theme of this gallery it is proposed to acquire additional exhibits in the form of new taxidermy mounts of six species once indigenous to Scotland but now extinct in the area i.e. one each of brown bear, lynx, European beaver, wolf, wild boar and lemming.

The Committee is asked to approve the acquisition of these new exhibits.

All specimens would be sourced legally and ethically from a supplier in Finland where these species still exist. Specialist contractor, Duncan A Ferguson is a taxidermist of international repute who recently prepared large mammal mounts as part of Glasgow Museums' Kelvingrove redisplay. Mr Ferguson has supplied a quotation for the contract of £12,825 including a contingency of £675 and it is recommended that this quotation be accepted.

Recognising the importance of these specimens The National Museum of Scotland has approved a grant of £6,000 towards the total cost through the National Fund for Acquisitions. The remaining expenditure of £6,825 would be met from the Leisure and Communities Revenue Budget.